AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A managing method for ordering a composition of a plurality of units to form a composite apparatus which is a copying machine, a facsimile machine, a printing machine, or a composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, through an ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, the method comprising:

causing said ordering apparatus to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus, which is the copying machine, the facsimile machine, the printing machine, or the composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

causing said composite apparatus, when said composite apparatus is set up and the power is switched on, to recognize unit information for specifying units to be composed itself, and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said predetermined rule;

causing said composite apparatus to inform the composite state information to said ordering apparatus; and

comparing the composite state information created by said ordering apparatus and the composite state information informed by said composite apparatus.

2. (Currently amended) A managing system comprising an ordering apparatus and a composite apparatus, for ordering said composite apparatus which is a copying machine, a

facsimile machine, a printing machine, or a composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, through said ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, wherein

said ordering apparatus comprises:

means for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus which is the copying machine, the facsimile machine, the printing machine, or the composite machine comprising multiple of said machines; and

first creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule, and

said composite apparatus comprises:

· means for recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed itself <u>when said composite apparatus is set up and the power is switched on</u>;

second creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule; and

informing means for informing the composite state information to said ordering apparatus.

3. (Original) The managing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said ordering apparatus further comprises storing means for storing the composite state information created by said first creating means in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus.

4. (Previously presented) The managing system as set forth in claim 3, wherein

said ordering apparatus and said composite apparatus are connected through a

communication network,

said informing means of said composite apparatus transmits the composite state

information created by said second creating means to said ordering apparatus, and

said ordering apparatus further comprises means for comparing the transmitted composite

state information and the composite state information corresponding to the composite apparatus

information stored by said storing means.

5. (Previously presented) The managing system as set forth in claim 2, further

comprising a managing apparatus, connected to said ordering apparatus and said composite

apparatus through a communication network, for managing said composite apparatus, wherein

said ordering apparatus further comprises means for transmitting the composite state

information created by said first creating means and composite apparatus information for

specifying the composite apparatus to said managing apparatus,

said informing means of said composite apparatus transmits the composite state

information created by said second creating means to said managing apparatus, and

said managing apparatus further comprises means for comparing the composite state

information transmitted from said ordering apparatus and the composite state information

transmitted from said composite apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) A composite apparatus which is a copying machine, a facsimile machine, a printing machine, or a composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, comprising:

means for the composite apparatus, which is the copying machine, the facsimile machine, the printing machine, or the composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed itself when said composite apparatus is set up and the power is switched on;

means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and

means for informing the created composite state information to an ordering apparatus.

7. (Currently amended) An ordering apparatus for ordering a composite apparatus which is a copying machine, a facsimile machine, a printing machine, or a composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, comprising:

means for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus which is the copying machine, the facsimile machine, the printing machine, or the composite machine comprising multiple of said machines;

means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and

means for, when receiving composite state information created, when said composite apparatus is set up and the power is switched on, according to the same rule as said predetermined rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the composite

apparatus information stored by a storing means, comparing received composite state information and the composite state information stored in said storing means.

8. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a computer program is stored, the computer program for ordering a composite apparatus which is a copying machine, a facsimile machine, a printing machine, or a composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, the recording medium causing, via the computer program, steps comprising the following to be performed:

causing a computer to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus which is the copying machine, the facsimile machine, the printing machine, or the composite machine comprising multiple of said machines,

causing a computer to create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

causing a computer to store the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and

causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information created, when said composite apparatus is set up and the power is switched on, according to the same rule as said predetermined rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.

9. (Currently amended) A memory product readable by computers and storing therein a computer program for ordering a composite apparatus which is a copying machine, a facsimile

machine, a printing machine, or a composite machine comprising multiple of said machines, including:

computer readable code means to cause a computer for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus which is the copying machine, the facsimile machine, the printing machine, or the composite machine comprising multiple of said machines;

computer readable code means to cause a computer for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

computer readable code means to cause a computer for storing the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and

computer readable code means for causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information created, when said composite apparatus is set up and the power is switched on, according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.